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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/552,569 | 10/11/2005 | Philip Stewart Low | 3220-78734 | 4422 |
| 23643 | 7590 | 05/30/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| BARNES & THORNBURG LLP | | | WEN, SHARON X | |
| 11 SOUTH MERIDIAN | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204 | | | 1609 | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 05/30/2007 | | PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/552,569 | LOW ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Sharon Wen | Art Unit 1609 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/09/2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 7-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 7-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/19/2006.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Status Request, filed 03/09/2007, is acknowledged.
This Office Action should serve in response to said request.
2. Claims 1-6 have been canceled.
Claims 7-12 are pending and currently under examination as they read on a method of treatment of lupus erythematosus (LE) comprising administering a conjugate.

Priority

3. The domestic priority date for claims 7-12 is deemed the filing date of provisional application USSN 60/468,330, i.e. 05/06/2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. Applicant's IDS filed 06/19/2006 is acknowledged and has been considered.

Specification

5. The use of the trademark has been noted in this application (e.g. see page 16, line 21, "TiterMax Gold®"). It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)(e) as being anticipated by Low et al. (US 2002/0192157 A1, see entire document).

The present claims are directed to a method for treating LE comprising administering a conjugate. Low et al. teaches a method of treatment of LE comprising administering a conjugate of the general formula L-X where in group L comprised a folate receptor binding ligand, folate, or analog thereof and group X comprises an immunogen such as fluorescein isothiocyanate or dinitrophenyl (e.g. see BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION, in particular, page 1 paragraph [0003]; DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION, in particular, page 2 paragraph [0015]; page 3 paragraph [0018]; page 4 paragraph [0025] and [0027]; page 5 paragraph [0030]; EXAMPLE 2 and 7; and claims 1-2 and 4-5).

Taken together, the reference teaches all limitations of the present claims.

8. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Riccardi (US 2005/0164906 A1, see entire document).

As stated above, present claims are directed to a method for treating LE comprising administering a conjugate. Riccardi teaches a method of treatment of LE comprising administering a conjugate of the general formula L-X where in group L comprised a folate receptor binding ligand or a folate and group X comprises an immunogen (see DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION, in particular, pages 6-7 paragraph [0075] and page 9 paragraph [0096]).

Double Patenting

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. Claims 7-12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 12-13, 15-16, 18, 20-21, 23-24 and 26 of copending Application USSN 11/481,264. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other for the following reason:

The instant and copending claims are drawn to the same or nearly the same and obvious methods of treating LE with the same or nearly the same and obvious conjugate comprising a folate or folate receptor binding ligand and an immunogen to accomplish the same or nearly the same endpoint in treating LE. Therefore the instant and copending claims anticipate or render obvious one another.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

11. Claims 7-12 are directed to an invention not patentably distinct from claims 12-13, 15-16, 18, 20-21, 23-24 and 26 of commonly assigned USSN 11/481,264 for reasons stated above.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office normally will not institute an interference between applications or a patent and an application of common ownership (see MPEP Chapter 2300). Commonly assigned USSN 11/481,264, discussed above, would form the basis for a rejection of the noted claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) if the commonly assigned case qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) and the conflicting inventions were not commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made. In order for the examiner to resolve this issue, the assignee can, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(c), either show that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made, or name the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter.

A showing that the inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made will preclude a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon the commonly assigned case as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g), or 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for applications pending on or after December 10, 2004.

Conclusion

12. No claim is allowed.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharon Wen whose telephone number is (571) 270-3064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:30AM-6:00PM, ALT. Friday, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mary Mosher can be reached on (571) 272-0906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Phillip G. GAMBEL
PHILLIP GAMBEL, PH.D. JD.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

TR 1600

5/24/07

Sharon Wen, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
May 22, 2007